CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2009 CALIFORNIA TRIBAL WATER SUMMIT PLANNING TEAM

Protect Our Sacred Water

Highlights of February 13, 2009, Meeting in Sacramento

The third meeting of the California Tribal Water Summit Planning Team (PT) was held in Sacramento on February 13, 2009. The meeting objectives were to finalize logistics and outreach materials for the Tribal Water Plenary meetings, and discuss next steps for Summit planning.

Briefing: Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Rick Sanchez, Executive Manager for the BDCP, and Rebecca Nicholas, Public Outreach, provided an overview of the BDCP and upcoming public meetings. A briefing packet provided a map of the conveyance planning areas, a schedule of BDCP workshops, a list of related websites, and a list of current challenges in the Delta. A brief presentation highlighted the BDCP's focus on comprehensive habitat conservation and restoration, and its relationship to Delta Vision and FloodSAFE efforts. Workshops for the Environmental Impact Report will be held throughout the State, during the month of March. The BDCP is looking for contacts to help work with Tribes and address Tribal issues.

Preparation for Tribal Water Plenary Sessions

Discussions on preparation for the Regional Tribal Water Plenary sessions addressed outreach, agendas, materials, grant resources, and State agency tribal liaisons. There is a great deal of flexibility in the agendas, to accommodate topics relevant to the different regions. Maps and grant resources, tailored to Tribal interests and issues, were identified as important materials to be developed. Other data gaps needs to be identified and addressed.

Logistics for Tribal Water Plenary Sessions

Members of the PT indicated with Regional Plenary sessions they would be able to assist with. Meetings will be scheduled from March through June.

Summit Planning Strategic Advisors

Members discussed the tension between having a strong regional commitment and letting sponsorship for the Summit emerge from this, on the one hand, and establishing a group of high-level Tribal strategic advisors early on, on the other hand. Such a body could help with political endorsement and financial sponsorship. The PT agreed that such a body could be useful, but did not want to go ahead and establish something at this point. Discussions also noted that a venue such as a non-profit foundation will be needed to manage contributions.

Next Steps

The next PT meeting will be a two-hour conference call on Friday, March 13th, from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM. An agenda, call-in number and GoToMeeting link will be provided for the meeting.